

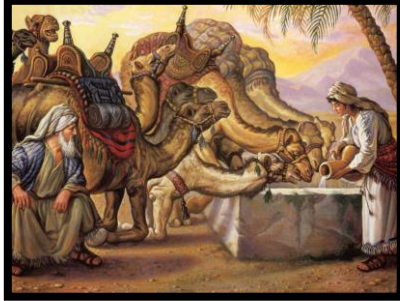


# FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon

Called & Chosen #6 THE BRIDE OF CHRIST (Isaac & Rebekah)

Genesis 22:19 – Genesis 24:67



## SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

1 Peter 1:7-9 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls”

## GOD’S PURPOSE FOR ME

I AM WATCHING AND WAITING FOR HEAVEN TO SEE,  
THE LORD JESUS, COMING IN THE CLOUDS FOR ME!

**1. INTRODUCTION:** God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac on the altar to test both Abraham and Isaac. They showed God that they trusted Him with their whole hearts, and even their lives, and God provided the lamb for the sacrifice so Isaac was saved! God provided the lamb for Isaac, and in the fullness of time, God became flesh for us in Jesus Christ, to become Himself the Passover Lamb. We must be willing to die to our self, surrendering our own will to His, giving our all for Jesus, because He gave His all for us.

### ORDER OF SERVICE:

- |                                |   |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Light Candles & Pray        | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah’s Ark with ‘Animals Go Marching Song’ |                                 |
| 2. Children’s Songs & Story    | 5. Adult Fellowship Break                                     | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer  |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set   | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

**Objects to Bring:** Jewelry Box, Jewelry, Candy Bracelets 1 Per Child, Glitter Glue for Heaven Page

## 2. AFTER ABRAHAM RETURNED HOME TO SARAH WITH ISAAC, THEY LIVED HAPPILY AT BEERSHEBA.



Our Bible story opens with Abraham returning home with Isaac, alive, and God blessed their lives in Beersheba for twelve more years, until the time came for Isaac to find a bride. The Bible doesn't tell us much about those years but we do know that Abraham and his family were faithful to God.

*Genesis 22:19-23* *"So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba.. <sup>20</sup>And it came to pass after these things, that it was told Abraham, saying, Behold, Milcah, she hath also born children unto thy brother Nahor... <sup>23</sup> And Bethuel begat Rebekah...."*

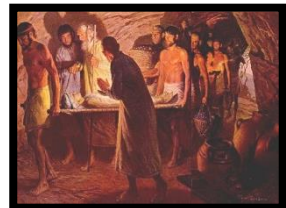
Abraham and Sarah heard that his brother Nahor had a daughter who would be a good bride for his son just before Sarah died. After a long full life of being a good wife to Abraham, and nurturing Isaac to become next in the line of the Patriarchs, Sarah died.

*Genesis 23:1-16* *"Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old; these were the years of the life of Sarah. <sup>2</sup> And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her."*

Today it has become popular to have 'celebrations of life' when people die, but both Old and New Testaments of the Bible, show us that **the way of the Lord is to mourn for those who have died.**

*Ecclesiastes 3:4* *"A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance."*

*Genesis 23:31-16* *"And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying...give me the cave of Machpelah... and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant."*



### **3. SARAH WAS LAID TO REST TO AWAIT GOD'S SPIRIT BREATH TO RETURN HER TO LIFE AT THE RESURRECTION.**

*Genesis 23:17-20 “And the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre...and the cave...were made sure<sup>18</sup> unto Abraham for a possession....<sup>19</sup> And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan...”*

The cave of the Patriarchs remains until today, where structures have been built to protect the burial site, but it is still the same tomb of the Patriarchs. **The scriptures show that Jewish understanding of death and resurrection, is at death the body returns to dust, and the Spirit of life goes back to God who gave it.**



*Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”*

Abraham trusted God to keep the Spirit of life He had breathed into Sarah that went back to Him at her death, until the resurrection.

*Ezekiel 30:11 “Then he said unto me, Son of man, **these bones are the whole house of Israel**: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: **we are cut off for our parts**.”*

The **whole house of Israel** includes those believers who are grafted into Israel by faith. Only in our day can it be said that God's people are **'cut off for their parts'**, when hearts are stopped, **to cut off their life in order to harvest their parts!**

*1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, **whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit**.”*

All God's people Israel await the day when **God will come to breathe His Spirit of life back into their dry bones - at the resurrection when they shall rise up to live again**. Then, after the 1000 years is finished, God will bring them with the heavenly city to place them into the land of Israel that He promised to Abraham.

#### **4. GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM TO BREATHE HIS SPIRIT BACK INTO THE BONES OF BELIEVING ISRAEL, AND PLACE THEM INTO THEIR LAND AT THE LAST DAY.**

*Ezekiel 30:12-14 “Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into***



*the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, <sup>14</sup>And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and **I shall place you in your own land:** then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.”*

**Notice:** God did not promise to take anyone living now as though in an Exodus back to the land of Israel, but **His promise is to the believing of Israel WHO DIED**, that when He raises them out of their graves, **THEN** He will put His Spirit back into them and **PLACE** them in their land, **when the Heavenly City descends**.

*Hebrews 11:8-10 “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. <sup>9</sup>By faith ... **he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**”*

*Revelation 21:2 & 10 “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.... <sup>10</sup>And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and **shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.**”*



Abraham laid Sarah’s bones to rest ‘with their fathers’ until the resurrection when God breathes His Spirit into believing Israel and they shall come to life. Then at the last day Israel will be placed in the promised land when the New Jerusalem descends from heaven!

## **5. ABRAHAM PLANS FOR THE MARRIAGE OF HIS SON.**

Abraham was now 140 years old and his son Isaac was now 40. With Sarah laid to rest, Abraham's thoughts turned to fulfilling His covenant with God by finding a wife for Isaac, but where they lived, Canaanites worshipped idols, and marriage to them was forbidden.

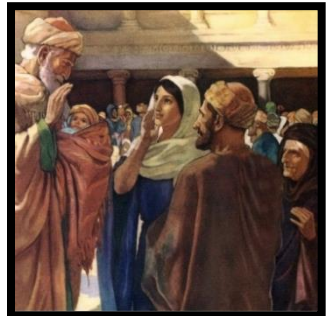
**Deuteronomy 7:1-3** *“When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee....seven nations greater and mightier than thou; <sup>2</sup>And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; **thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:** <sup>3</sup>**Neither shalt thou make marriages with them;** thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.”*

God does not change. God forbade His people then, as He still forbids His people today to intermarry with unbelievers.

**2 Corinthians 6:14** *“**Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”*

Abraham wanted to obey God, but where would he find a Godly young woman to marry his son? Of course, he would search among God's family, so the exciting news was sent to his uncle Nahor, that a bride was being sought for Father Abraham's son!

**Genesis 24:1-4** *“And Abraham was old, and well stricken in age: and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. <sup>2</sup>**And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had,** Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh: <sup>3</sup>And I will make thee swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, **that thou shalt not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell:** <sup>4</sup>**But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.**”*



## **6. ABRAHAM SENDS HIS SERVANT TO FIND A BRIDE.**

*Genesis 24:5-7 “And the servant said unto him, Peradventure the woman will not be willing to follow me unto this land: must I needs bring thy son again unto the land from whence thou camest? <sup>6</sup>And Abraham said unto him, Beware thou that thou bring not my son thither again. <sup>7</sup>The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.”*



Eliezer feared coming back with no bride, but Abraham had faith that God would send His angel to choose a bride, so he loaded up ten camels with gifts for the new bride, along with his servant Eliezer and his crew, and off they went.

*Genesis 24:8-10 “And if the woman will not be willing to follow thee, then thou shalt be clear from this my oath: only bring not my son thither again. <sup>9</sup>And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter. <sup>10</sup>And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.”*

Eliezer searched for a wife for Isaac whose heart was ready to receive him; for a wife who would leave all to follow him and go immediately. God searches to find His bride whose heart is longing for Him, who will immediately leave all to receive and follow Him.



*2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...”*

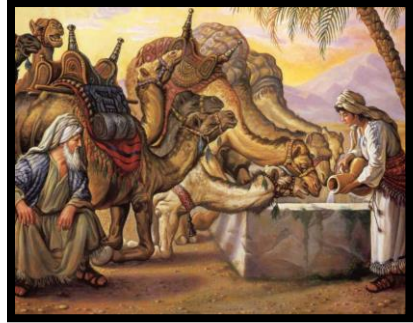
**God works mightily in the lives of those who trust in Him.**



## 7. GOD LEADS HIS LISTENING SERVANTS TO JUST THE RIGHT PLACE.

When Eliezer arrived outside the city with his master's camels, God's plan was that it was the time of evening when the women come to draw water from the well so Rebekah was already there!

*Genesis 24:11-14* “*And he made his camels to kneel down without the city by a well of water at the time of the evening, even the time that women go out to draw water.*” <sup>12</sup> *And he said O LORD God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and shew kindness unto my master Abraham.* <sup>13</sup> *Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water:* <sup>14</sup> *And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master.*”



Eliezer prayed to the Lord for a sign that the girl whom he asked for a drink, who would ask also to water his camels, would be the girl God chose. Then he made the camels kneel down beside the well and waited, ready with gifts from his master to give the bride. Eliezer is a picture of the Holy Spirit who gives us freely of gifts from our Master, Jesus, to prepare us for His coming.

*Galatians 5:22-24* “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*” <sup>23</sup> *Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.* <sup>24</sup> *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*”

Abraham gave freely of his wealth to the bride being prepared for his son, and God gives us the wealth of gifts of His Holy Spirit, to prepare those who are His, us, to become a beautiful bride, a pure and holy church who are ready for His appearing.

## **8. GOD TELLS HIS BRIDE TO MAKE HERSELF READY IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR HE IS COMING SOON.**

*Acts 2:36-38 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

Repentance means to completely turn the other way from sin, and obey God to be baptized in Jesus name for forgiveness of sins, then Jesus promises to immerse you in His Holy Spirit so that all the promises God promised to Abraham and his seed belong to you!

*Galatians 3:29 “And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

*Revelation 19:7-8 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”<sup>8</sup> And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”*



**OBJECT LESSON:** Box of Costume Jewelry to show, and A “Gold” bracelet for each child. (*Spray paint plastic bracelets and ‘engrave’ each with ‘Jesus makes me Beautiful’ or pass out Candy Bracelets.*)

- Our Father has beautiful gifts for those who will worship Him to help them to become a beautiful bride for His Son Jesus!
- God gives us all the wealth of His Spirit to prepare us to become a beautiful church for Him!
- Jesus in your heart makes you beautiful!

***Pass out gold ‘Jesus Makes Me Beautiful’ or Candy Bracelets to show children that they belong to Christ!***

We must be willing like Rebekah was willing, to make ourselves ready, to leave everything behind: to follow Jesus!



## **9. ELIEZER'S PRAYER WAS ANSWERED EXACTLY AS HE ASKED OF THE LORD.**



*Genesis 24:15-27* “*And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder.* <sup>16</sup> *And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up.* <sup>17</sup> *And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher.* <sup>18</sup> *And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hasted, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink.* <sup>19</sup> *And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also....*”

Rebekah, a beautiful virgin girl from the family of Nahor, came to Eliezer just as he had prayed! If Eliezer had not prayed then God would have no answer. God has a plan but He commands us to pray. Prayers neither prayed nor believed cannot be answered.

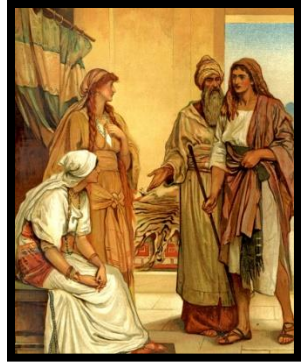
*Numbers 14:27-28* “*How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.* <sup>28</sup> *Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you.*”

*Job 22:27-28* “*Thou shalt make thy prayer unto him, and he shall hear thee, and thou shalt pay thy vows.* <sup>28</sup> *Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.*”

Abraham and Eliezer humbly and gratefully prayed, expecting our mighty God who cares for His children to answer their prayer! The actions and words of their daily lives showed their faith in God. Abraham sent gifts for the new bride for whom he prayed. God expects no less faith from us, that we would **live our lives in childlike expectation** knowing God always answers our prayers!

## **10. REBEKAH BELIEVED GOD’S WORD SENT THROUGH HIS SERVANT TO HER.**

**Genesis 24:28-38** “*And the damsel ran, and told them of her mother's house these things.*”<sup>29</sup> *And Rebekah had a brother, and his name was Laban: and Laban ran out unto the man, unto the well.*”<sup>30</sup> *And it came to pass, when he saw the earring and bracelets upon his sister's hands, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, Thus spake the man unto me; that he came unto the man; and, behold, he stood by the camels at the well.*”<sup>31</sup> *And he said, **Come in, thou blessed of the LORD;** ...*”<sup>37</sup> *And my master made me swear, saying, ...thou shalt go unto my father's house, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son.”*



How does God give us miracles? From childhood, God gives us angels to guide the way into blessing, when we trust Him in prayer.

**Matthew 18:10** “*Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven **their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.**”*

But just like all of us, Eliezer believed, but still had a lot of “what if’s”, wondering how it is possible for this miracle to happen!

**Genesis 24:39-49** “*And I said unto my master, **Peradventure the woman will not follow me.**”<sup>40</sup> *And he said unto me, **The LORD, before whom I walk, will send his angel with thee, and prosper thy way....**”<sup>49</sup> *And now if ye will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me: and if not, tell me; that I may turn to the right hand, or to the left.”***

Rebekah believed God’s word sent through Eliezer, in her heart accepting God’s plan for her to become the wife of Isaac, so she welcomed Eliezer and his servants to stay with her family. Then Rebekah ran to her house, to tell her mom and dad the incredible story of what just happened!

## **11. THE INVITATION TO BE THE BRIDE OF THE MASTER IS GIVEN AND ACCEPTED.**

Nahor's servants set out food for Eliezer and his servants and all his camels. Eliezer told the reason for his journey and asked for Rebekah to be allowed to come with him.

*Genesis 24:50-51 "Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. <sup>51</sup> Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master's son's wife, as the LORD hath spoken."*

As Laban and Bethuel, Rebekah's father listened to Eliezer, they decided the plan was from the Lord and gave Rebekah to be taken to Isaac for his wife.

*Genesis 24:52-53 "And it came to pass, that, when Abraham's servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things."*

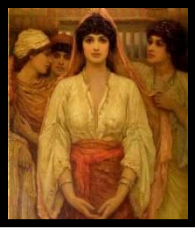
Eliezer bowed down to praise God for answering his prayers. Then he brought out beautiful jewelry and clothing. Rebekah and her family had the fire of God's Holy Spirit burning in their hearts like He wants us to have. Jesus offers all we need to prepare ourselves to rise up as His bride, by receiving His gifts to us!



*2 Peter 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

God invites you to come to full repentance and be baptized in His name, so He can bless you with precious promises and gifts of His Holy Spirit – precious gifts of power from on high to live your life for God and to rise up to meet Him when He comes for His bride!

## **12. THE BRIDE MAKES HERSELF READY AND ELIEZER LEADS HER TO HER HUSBAND ISAAC.**



*Genesis 24:54-58 “And they did eat and drink, he and the men that were with him, and tarried all night; and they rose up in the morning, and he said, Send me away unto my master....<sup>57</sup> And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth.<sup>58</sup> And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go.”*

Rebekah let go of traditional preparations: no new dresses, no bridal shower, and said yes, she would go, because Rebekah believed the vision God had given Abraham for her future!

*Genesis 24:59-61 “And they sent away Rebekah their sister, and her nurse, and Abraham's servant, and his men.<sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them.<sup>61</sup> And Rebekah arose, and her damsels, and they rode upon the camels, and followed the man: and the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.”*

So, Eliezer took Rebekah and her maids' home to meet Isaac on the caravan of ten camels. And just as Jesus so often does for those who trust in Him, He led Isaac to just the right place so that when Eliezer and the camels came carrying Rebekah his bride, Isaac looked up and there was the answer to his prayers!

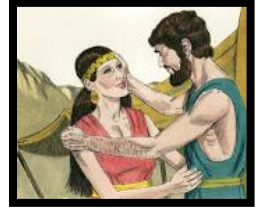
*Genesis 24:62-66 “And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi...and he lifted up his eyes, and saw, and, behold, the camels were coming.<sup>64</sup> And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she lighted off the camel...<sup>66</sup> And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done.”*



What a beautiful love story that both Isaac and Rebekah waited anxiously and expectantly to see their beloved, watching for the other while yet afar off! Jesus watches and waits for us like that and wants for us to have expectant joy as we wait for His coming!

### **13. ISAAC WAS COMFORTED BY REBEKAH LIKE THE HOLY SPIRIT COMFORTS US.**

*Genesis 24:67 “And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.”*



When you ask Jesus to come into Heart, He receives you and loves you and promises to be your comforter when you are sad. Jesus is not only the bearer of gifts, but He is the comforter our everything!

*Isaiah 9:6 “<sup>6</sup> For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*



Abraham is a picture of our Father, God. Isaac is a picture of His Son Jesus, and Eliezer is a picture of the Holy Spirit, sent to find the bride. In Jesus we have the fullness of God, made visible in Him! Rebekah is a picture of each one of us, invited to be the bride of the master's Son - we are His church!

*1 Corinthians 2:9-10 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. <sup>10</sup> But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*

*John 14:16-18 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup> Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”*

The story of Isaac and Rebekah is a beautiful love story picture of our Father sending the Holy Spirit to search for us and bring us to His Son, our Lord Jesus because He loves us, are you ready?!

## 14. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME REVIEW

1. We must keep our hearts clean and be ready for Jesus' coming.
2. When we die our life is safe with Jesus but our hope is in the resurrection when He will raise us up to live forever with Him.
3. It is very important to God that believers marry only one who truly loves belongs to Jesus so they will not lose precious faith.
4. When I trust in Jesus and follow Him immediately when He calls, He will lead me to the place He has prepared for me.
5. Jesus gives me gifts of the Spirit to make me beautiful for Him.
6. Jesus is the embodiment of the invisible God made visible in Him through His Spirit who also lives in me and comforts me.
7. When I come to Jesus He receives me and loves me forever.
8. While I wait for Jesus to come, He gives me gifts of His Holy Spirit to prepare me to be His bride, filled with His glory!



*1 Peter 2:9-10 “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; <sup>10</sup> Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”*

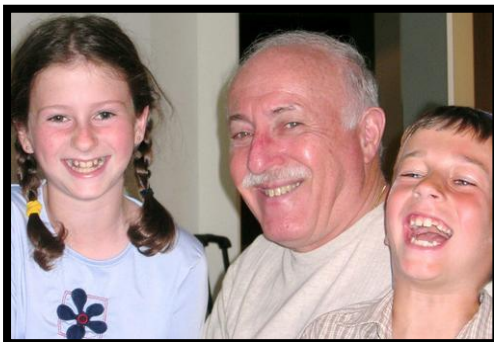
*Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”*

*Dear Lord God, Thank you for showing us how much you loved us and searched the world to find us before we ever knew you, so we could become your beautiful bride. Jesus, we say YES, and stand ready to go. We give our lives to you and trust you to guide us in all our ways. Help us learn to hear your voice in our hearts, and we trust that you will give us courage to follow anywhere you lead. Help us all to love you and to be ready when you come, **in Jesus name, Amen.***



## 15. LIFE PARABLE -- GRANDPA'S HOMECOMING

Callie and Joe had never seen their Grandpa, but their mom and dad told them all about him. Before Callie and Joe were born, their mom and dad had been missionaries with grandpa in a country where it was against the law to talk about Jesus.



Grandpa had been arrested and locked up in a prison because he wouldn't stop telling about Jesus! He wanted so much for the boys and girls of that land to know how much God loves them that he didn't even care about his own life. When Callie and Joe were born, their mom and dad had moved back to the states so they would be safe, but for all those 10 years, Grandpa had been living in a prison far away. Callie and Joe felt like they knew Grandpa because their mom and dad kept telling them about him. Every day they looked at his picture and prayed for him, hoping they could see him soon. They believed and knew in their hearts that Grandpa was really there and that he loved them. They loved him and missed him, even though they had never met him.

In Grandpa's letters, he told them that is how it is with Jesus, that by reading his letters to us in the Holy Bible, and by His Spirit living in our hearts, that we learn to know Him and miss Him, and we love Him very much, even though we have never seen Him. Grandpa was always telling Callie and Joe how he was waiting for Jesus to come and couldn't wait to see Him! Then one day Callie and Joe got some good news - Grandpa had been released from prison, he was flying home on a plane, and they were going to meet him in the morning!

None of us has ever seen Jesus but we love Him and rejoice with great joy because we know He is coming again! Have you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins? Are you ready? Oh, don't disappoint Jesus by not watching for Him, but be watching and waiting for Him when He comes because He loves you so much!

When you receive the Lord Jesus, God gives you beautiful gifts from His Holy Spirit to prepare you for Heaven and make you shine as one of His Jewels! One day when Jesus comes, we will rise up to a new life in the Heavenly City, with Jesus forever!



*1 Peter 1:7-8* “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: <sup>8</sup>*whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.*”